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PICTURE

CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR RETURNING TO PRIVATE L

BY DONALD A. DAVIS

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- IN THE SHROUDED WORLD OF THE SPY, BOBBY RAY INMAN WAS NOT A MAN TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY.

NOT ONLY WERE HIS CREDENTIALS IMPECCABLE IN THE ARENA OF SIFTING THROUGH INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION, BUT INMAN WAS A FOUR-STAR ADMIRAL AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

HE SIGNED OFF ON BOTH JOBS WEDNESDAY TO RETURN TO PRIVATE LIFE. NO OTHER OFFICIAL REASON WAS GIVEN.

SPECULATION WAS RAMPANT, HOWEVER, ON WHETHER THERE WERE OTHER REASONS AND WHETHER INMAN WAS FED UP WITH HIS JOB.

AN INTELLIGENCE SOURCE SAID INMAN HAD "NEVER REALLY ENJOYED BEING NO. 2 AT THE AGENCY" AND THERE WERE REPORTS OF FRICTION BETWEEN INMAN AND CIA DIRECTOR WILLIAM CASEY, WHO HE REPORTEDLY ONCE CALLED "THE WANDERER" FOR HIS PENCHANT FOR FLYING TO HOT SPOTS AROUND THE WORLD.

CIA OFFICIALS ON ACTIVE SERVICE WOULD NOT DISCUSS THE RESIGNATION. BUT FORMER AGENTS WERE LESS RELUCTANT. ONE SAID INMAN HAD BEEN SHOULDERING TOO MUCH OF THE WORKLOAD AND WAS ALMOST RUNNING THE AGENCY.

ADMINISTRATION SOURCES WERE QUOTED BY THE WASHINGTON POST TODAY AS SAYING ONE POINT OF CONTENTION WAS THE EXTENT OF CIA SPYING IN THE UNITED STATES.

INMAN OPPOSED GOING AS FAR AS SOME WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL OFFICIALS WANTED, BUT ENDED UP ENDORSING PRESIDENT REAGAN'S DESIRE TO AUTHORIZE COVER CIA ACTIVITES IN THE UNITED STATES.

WHITE HOUSE SOURCES WERE QUOTED BY THE POST AS SAYING INMAN WAS UNHAPPY WITH THE DECISION BY WILLIAM CLARK, REAGAN'S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, TO REVIEW THE CIA AND DEFENSE BUDGETS.

PRIOR TO JOINING THE CIA LAST YEAR, INMAN SERVED AS DIRECTOR FOR THREE YEARS OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY, WHICH COLLECTS MOST OF ITS INTELLIGENCE THROUGH ELECTRONIC INTERCEPTS. HE WAS RELUCTANT TO GIVE UP THE JOB AS NO. 1 AT NSA TO BECOME NO. 2 AT CIA, BUT DID IT.

INMAN WAS WIDELY RESPECTED ON CAPITOL HILL AND HIS APPOINTMENT BY REAGAN TO THE KEY CIA POST WAS HAILED, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF CASEY'S LACK OF INTELLIGENCE EXPERIENCE.